



# September 2025

**CO-CHAIRPERSONS:** Nancy Ludwig and Janet Heskin

**USHERING:**

Sunday, September 7 at 9:40 a.m.: Chase & Lauren Pederson  
Sunday, September 14 at 9:40 a.m.: Kent & Sheila Brown  
Sunday, September 21 at 9:40 a.m.: Travis & Ami Peterson family  
Sunday, September 28 at 9:40 a.m.: Bruce & Donna Gedrose

*Please fill out the Usher Report and place in the offering plate.  
Usher duties are posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex.*

**GREETERS:**

Sunday, September 7 at 9:15 a.m.: Nancy Ludwig  
Sunday, September 14 at 9:15 a.m.: Janet Heskin  
Sunday, September 21 at 9:15 a.m.: Marilyn Gedrose  
Sunday, September 28 at 9:15 a.m.: Jim & Michelle Fleming

**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP:**

Sunday, September 7 at 9:15 a.m.: Matt & Allison Pfeiffer family  
Sunday, September 14 at 9:15 a.m.: Kristy O'Connor family  
Sunday, September 21 at 9:15 a.m.: Michael & Chelsey Zeltinger family  
Sunday, September 28 at 9:15 a.m.: Chad & Amy Wobbema family

**PREPLANNED CONGREGATION MEAL:**

Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, Helping Hands members are needed to **set up, serve, and clean up the kitchen** from the Rally Day/Fall Festival Potluck. **Co-Chairs will be responsible for finding workers for these tasks.**

**FUND:** Youth fund

*If you are unavailable on your assigned day, please use the group list that was mailed to you to find a replacement. If you are unsuccessful at finding a replacement, please notify a co-chairperson.*



## pastor's ponderings

The 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly (CWA) was held July 28- August 2 at the Phoenix Convention Center, and I was blessed to one of approximately 800 voting delegates (elected at synod assemblies). CWA is the primary decision-making body of the whole ELCA. We convened under the theme "For the Life of the World" which celebrates the Nicene Creed's 1,700th anniversary.

We began the assembly by gathering for opening worship. Elizabeth Eaton, ELCA presiding bishop, delivered a sermon on Holy Communion as an act of resistance in a time of increasing division. "The world wants to divide us, but the eucharist brings us together," she said.

Each of the six days, we gathered for worship and prayer, along with doing the business of the church in eleven plenary sessions. In addition to the plenary business, we entered into times of Bible study, heard greetings and reports from leaders of ELCA, along with inter-religious, and ecumenical ministries:

Leaders of the seven ELCA seminaries

Former officers of the ELCA, including former presiding bishop Mark Hanson

Federal Chaplains

National bishop of the Lutheran Church in Canada

Bishop-elect of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land

President of the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ)

Director of the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers

Auxiliary bishop of the Catholic Archdiocese of Baltimore

President and general secretary of the National Council of Churches

Director of the Department of Inter-Orthodox, Ecumenical and Inter-faith Relations of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

Representatives of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF)

Chair of the Church of Norway Committee on Ecumenical Relations.

## ELECTIONS

One of the primary tasks before us was to elect two officers of our church- the Presiding Bishop (president) and Church Secretary (executive officer). Rev. Yehiel Curry was elected as Presiding Bishop (6-year term) and Rev. CeCee Wills was elected as Secretary (6-year term).

Rev. Curry currently serves as Bishop of the Metro Chicago Synod and is also the president of the Conference of Bishops (all 65 synod bishops of our church). Rev. Mills has served as an assistant to the bishop in the North Carolina Synod since 2019. They are both the first people of color elected to their respective roles in the ELCA.

## BUSINESS HIGHLIGHTS:

- \* Passed the “Faith and Civic Life” social statement as called for by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly.
- \* Updated repudiation of the “Doctrine of Discovery” which allowed European, and later American, nations to claim lands occupied by Indigenous or other non-European, non-Christian people as federal property.
- \* Passed the balanced budget for 2026-2028, hearing gratitude from the bishop of the Eastern Lutheran Diocese in Namibia and the bishop of the Salvadoran Lutheran Church for the ELCA’s support of their ministries.
- \* Passed language revisions to the “Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust” social statement, that reflect current laws and more modern terms.
- \* Received report from the Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church (CRLC), which detailed recommendations for the church to act on now and considerations to discern into the next churchwide assembly in 2028.
- \* Amended a bylaw to increase the percentage goal of youth and young adult voting membership of Churchwide Assembly, Church Council, and churchwide boards and committees from 10 to 20%.
- \* Referred to the office of the secretary, a motion that would have changed the process and timing of amending the ELCA constitution. The original motion was put forward by the CRLC and received several amendments, and much pushback from members of the assembly.
- \* Defeated a motion to set a 2-term limit to the offices of the Presiding Bishop and Secretary.
- \* Referred to the Office of the Presiding Bishop, consideration of the ethics and morality surrounding AI (artificial intelligence).

Cont. on page 7.



Hackers, pretending to be a local church or pastor, have been sending fake emails and text messages to church members. They ask parishioners to buy gift cards for church projects. Or a needy family. These emails and text messages look authentic, but they are not.

**Neither First Lutheran Church nor Pastor Amy will ever ask you to purchase a gift card via email or text message.**

If you receive such a message, please contact the church office immediately.



**Sunday, September 7th**  
Haley Thompson & Dylan Cudworth

**Sunday, September 14th**  
Raegyn Lange & Ava Schumacker

**Sunday, September 21st**  
Adison Bullinger & Leah Bullinger

**Sunday, September 28th**  
Hudson Myhre & Evan Hultgren



**Kick-Off Night**

September 24th 7-8:30 pm



## Rally Day

September 21st 10:00 am

## Children & Youth Programs Registration Open House

Cookies &  
Lemonade

September  
3rd  
5 - 6:30 pm

Meet our  
volunteers!



Grades 6-9  
Wednesdays 7 - 8:30 pm



Pre-k through Grade 5.  
Sundays 10 to 11 am

## By the Numbers

ATTENDANCE	OFFERING
August 3 - 64	\$ 2,142.18
August 10 - 70	\$ 3,022.00
August 13 - 6	\$ 150.00
August 17 - 44	\$ 1,246.00
August 20 - 5	\$ 80.00
August 24 - 76	\$ 1,836.00
Vanco MTD	\$ 681.09

*Weekly Offering Needed to Meet  
Budget \$3,430.00*

### YEAR-TO-DATE

(As of July 31, 2025)

BUDGET:	\$ 103,999.58
EXPENSES:	\$ 104,472.11
OFFERING:	\$ 95,269.31

### SPECIAL ACCOUNTS (SAVINGS)

#### DESIGNATED FUNDS

Property Fund:	\$32,098.42
Banner/Altar Fund:	\$796.64
Music Fund:	\$2,998.01
Budget Reserve:	\$18,507.36
Thrivent Choice:	\$994.00
Noisy Offering:	\$1,013.84
FLC Men's Group:	\$2,075.05
Capital Campaign Fund:	\$91,640.70
(Includes Carpet Fund:	\$11,771.09
& Hopes & Dreams:	\$1,224.35)



### September (Group 4)

Susette Allmaras  
Tom & Sherri Anderson  
Bev Bjornson  
Kent & Sheila Brown  
Heather Bullinger family  
Jim & Michelle Fleming  
Bruce & Donna Gedrose  
Marilyn Gedrose  
Janet Heskin  
Nancy Ludwig  
Metta McDowell  
Barry McNett  
Kristy O'Connor family  
Larry & Bev Pederson  
Chase & Lauren Pederson  
Travis & Ami Peterson family  
Matt & Allison Pfeiffer family  
David & Tasha Skogen family  
Chad & Amy Wobbema family  
Michael & Chelsey Zeltinger family

### KDAK RADIO BROADCAST

THE BEST WAYS TO LISTEN

1. **On the radio!**  
1600am or 100.1fm
2. **Online streaming through the KDAK app on your computer, tablet, or phone.** Just head to your app store and search "KDAK the Cardinal". Look for the logo above, install the app and listen!







***Thanks to all the sponsors of our radio broadcasts!***

Sept. 7: IHO Nathaniel's First Birthday, by Maggie Wobbema

Sept 14: IMO Char Lesmeister, by Wayne Lesmeister family

Sept 21: IHO John Bollingberg, by Jim & Ann Marie Wobbema family

Sept 28: IMO Marlin Bjornson, by Bev Bjornson



- ♦ **BAPTISMS:**
- ♦ Kolbie Elouise Anderson
  
- ♦ **WEDDINGS:**
  
- ♦ **FUNERALS:**
  
- ♦ **TRANSFERS:**



**September**

**2025**

Sharon Weisenburger

and

Karla Berglund

## August Memorials & Honorariums

### Capital Campaign Fund

IHO Kolbie's baptism  
by Christina Anderson

### Carpet Fund

IMO Connie Hovdenes  
by Bev Lesmeister

### Music Fund

IMO Kristina Wick  
By Bev Lesmeister  
IMO Paul Neis Jr.  
By Bev Lesmeister  
IMO Kelly Kreft  
By Bev Lesmeister

Draw  
Near



FLC WOMEN'S RETREAT



OCTOBER 30 -  
NOVEMBER 1

METIGOSHE  
MINISTRIES



Registration  
Deadline  
Sept 15



## GOD'S HOUSE *our home* 2025 Capital Campaign

### Capital Campaign Update:

Current pledges: \$186,163.96

2024 Donations \$780.00

2025 Donations \$90,695.48

**Total Donations as of 8/27/25 \$91,475.48**

### Requests from Property Board approved by council:

1. Parsonage Deck (rec. 8/13/25) \$15,000.00  
(Transferred to Property Fund 8/14/25)

**Capital Campaign Fund Total \$91,640.70**

Includes Carpet Fund of: \$11,771.09

Includes Hopes & Dreams Fund of: \$1,224.35

*Thank you to everyone that has pledged and given their support to the Capital Campaign to ensure FLC can remain debt-free while still being able to complete necessary updates to the church and parsonage in the next decade.*

## SUNDAY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS



**September 7:** Cherry Heinz, sound; Fern Schuster, lay reader, Carissa Johnson, communion coordinator

**September 14:** Mitch Bjerke, sound; Christina Anderson, lay reader.

**September 21:** Kevin Cartwright, sound; Michelle Pfeiffer, lay reader; Fern Schuster, communion coordinator

**September 28:** Kenny Thompson, sound; Colleen Semmens, lay reader

The First Lutheran Foundation was established in 2009 to encourage contributions to FLC with tax favorability to donors.

Financial gifts are allocated equally to the following four areas:

- \* Endowment Fund (only interest is used)
- \* FLC Ministry Programs
- \* Community Projects
- \* Missions



Your gift to the Foundation supports meaningful ministry both near and far, furthering God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Foundation donations are the gift that keeps on giving. You are encouraged to consider the First Lutheran Foundation in your estate and financial planning.

For more information about giving and tax advantage options, please contact a member of the Foundation Board of Directors: Bruce Hirchert, Jeanette Perleberg, Richard Carlson, Amy Perleberg & Dori Tollefson.



1 <sup>st</sup> - Mary Walz	19 <sup>th</sup> - Hannah Heinz
2 <sup>nd</sup> - Myles Guler	20 <sup>th</sup> - Kent Brown
3 <sup>rd</sup> - Danielle Bjerke	21 <sup>st</sup> - Harrison Jorgensen
5 <sup>th</sup> - Gabe Allmaras	Kyle Thompson
Andrew Bachmeier	22 <sup>nd</sup> - Adam Fleming
8 <sup>th</sup> - Miranda Johnson	Rachel Holzwarth
Nathaniel Scanson	Marty Larson
9 <sup>th</sup> - Terry Koepplin	Kortney Roscoe
Shirley Lindstrom	24 <sup>th</sup> - William Jorgensen
Brycen Shroyer	Brooke Longnecker
13 <sup>th</sup> - Logan Cudworth	Kayla Schumacker
Jeffrey Halvorson	27 <sup>th</sup> - Chase Pederson
15 <sup>th</sup> - Emma Duda	28 <sup>th</sup> - Cassie Longnecker
Orie Willms	Dori Tollefson
16 <sup>th</sup> - Betty Georgeson	29 <sup>th</sup> - Debra Larson
17 <sup>th</sup> - Rodney Dockter	30 <sup>th</sup> - Donny Allmaras
18 <sup>th</sup> - Rachel Anderson	John Bollingberg

If you find your birthday is not listed, or is incorrect, let us know!

- \* Passed the following memorials (invitations to local congregations to respond in word and action) that came from Synod assemblies to CWA.
  - \* Affirm People of God of All Gender Identities
  - \* Accompaniment and Accountability of Bishops
  - \* Increasing Continuing Education Commitments for pastors
  - \* Limiting Insurance Costs for Rostered Ministers
  - \* Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection
  - \* Evaluating and Updating the Call Process
  - \* Reconsideration of Social Message on End-of-Life Decisions
  - \* Indian Boarding School Remembrance
  - \* Recommendation 1 of the Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church (CRLC) regarding addressing racism in our church.
  - \* Israel and Palestine conflict, calling for the ELCA to advocate for human rights and a just peace for Palestinians and Israelis by supporting policies that end the occupation and genocide.

**People have been asking me, “How was the assembly?” My response has been, “Wonderful and hard.” It was wonderful to be with other Lutheran leaders and colleagues, and it was an honor to serve at the top level of our church. It was also very difficult, as I was called on to discern HUGE issues in our church and world. This was especially hard for me as I seem to be wired up by God to always see both sides of an issue. :-)** If you have any questions or comments about the CWA, I will be happy to have conversations about it!

~Pastor Amy



Starting in September, we will be adding the job of “Greeter” to our helping hands duties. Greeters are responsible for welcoming all individuals and helping or assisting individuals as needed.

If we have visitors, greeters will inform them of coffee fellowship, direct them to the location of things, assist them with information about our church (including giving them a brochure), and ask if they would like to meet and/or visit with Pastor Amy.